



## Granite Falls E-Newsletter Spring 2023

Suggestions? Let us know! Terra Rafael & Sam Marutzky  
Co-Editors of Granite Falls Enews [granitefallsnews@gmail.com](mailto:granitefallsnews@gmail.com)

### Granite Falls Neighborhood - Who Are We?

We put together an ANONYMOUS survey you can take to give us more ideas about who lives here and what our various interests are. Well we got some results - but little did I know that Survey Monkey for free only will report the first 10 responses. And we're also locked out of "other" responses. So out of the many people in our neighborhood, this is a small sliver of an incomplete picture. If any one of you has knowledge of a simple way to do surveys without a huge monthly contract, let us know and we'll try again.

#### Here are the results we got:

**Where are you from?** 5 from Colorado; 3 from West of Mississippi River; 2 from East of Mississippi River.

**Do you have children living with you?** 7 None; 1 Two; 1 One; 1 Other

**Do you have a pet?** 6 Dog; 1 Cat; 1 Other

**Favorite activities?** 2 Biking; 2 Hiking; 1 Video/Movies; 5 Other

**Retired or Employed?** 6 Retired; 1 Part-time; 3 Full-time

## Granite Falls Families with Kids

By Elizabeth Brookmeyer

There are quite a few families with kids in our neighborhood, and maybe even a few new babies arriving this summer! The Families with Kids-Granite Falls HOA Group is helping to build a strong and diverse community to support our neighbors in all stages of life and help our children feel safe and welcome in their neighborhood. Even if you no longer have kids at home, spend some time with your neighbor who is out walking, or offer to share a meal for a family welcoming a new baby. If you are new to the area-join our group and meet new friends. With summer approaching we hope to organize a family BBQ, along with more Mom's Night Ins and kiddo get togethers.

If you would like to be included in the most up to date happenings with the Families with Kids in Granite Falls Group please email Elizabeth at: [ebrookmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:ebrookmeyer@gmail.com)

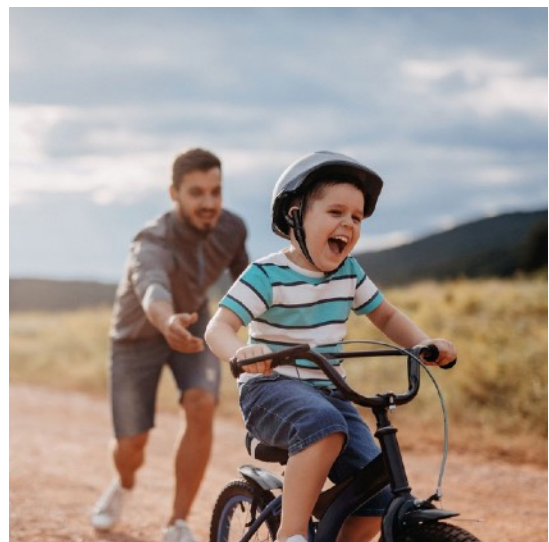
## Wednesday Bike Group

FAMILIES WITH KIDS - GRANITE FALLS HOA

Spring welcomes longer days in the sun!  
Let's take advantage.

Every Wednesday afternoon at 4:30 starting April 12th let's hang out in the Seiber Canyon Ave cul-de-sac. Kids have the space to bike and roam, share snacks, play in the open space, fly kites!

These evenings are open for anyone and everyone to join in the fun and are a great way to meet other families in our neighborhood!



## Activities & Groups to Join

- **Colorado Mountain Club** - Neighbor Victor Ketellapper [vkhome77@yahoo.com](mailto:vkhome77@yahoo.com) Founded in 1912, the Colorado Mountain Club is Colorado's community for mountain adventure, education, and conservation. Trips and training include hiking, backpacking, cross country skiing, rock climbing and more. Learn more at [www.cmc.org](http://www.cmc.org)
- **Speed Walking group** - Neighbor Pat Lurye: 970-318-0622 [pclurye@gmail.com](mailto:pclurye@gmail.com)
- **Poker Club** - contact Aaron Meckler: 303.324-4510 (text) or [Aaron.meckler@gmail.com](mailto:Aaron.meckler@gmail.com)
- **Game Afternoon Club** - contact Jennifer Bradfield: [Jennifer.bradfield@gmail.com](mailto:Jennifer.bradfield@gmail.com)
- **Families w Kids Club** - contact: Elizabeth Brookmeyer: [ebrookmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:ebrookmeyer@gmail.com)
  - Wednesday Bike beginning April 12, 4:30 pm Sieber Canyon cul-de-sac area- kid play, etc - all welcome
- **Frontier Wholesale Buyers Club** - Neighbor Linda Chumbley: [GJBuyingClub@gmail.com](mailto:GJBuyingClub@gmail.com)
- **Book Club** - Neighbor Terra Rafael: [wisewomanhood@gmail.com](mailto:wisewomanhood@gmail.com) We currently have space for one more member; (taking July off)
- **Biking Club** - Heartcycle Bicycle Touring Club. [www.heartcycle.org](http://www.heartcycle.org)
- **Pickleball Club** - Neighbors : Michael/Loretta Servedio [servedio144@gmail.com](mailto:servedio144@gmail.com)
  - Western Slope Pickleball Club [www.westernslopepickleballclub.com](http://www.westernslopepickleballclub.com)
- **Outdoor Club** - Neighbor: Deb Orlick, [Dcdorlick@gmail.com](mailto:Dcdorlick@gmail.com)
  - The Outing Club, which has been around for over 20 years (no online presence). The purpose is to encourage & assist people to enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, camping, water sports, and skiing. Most hikes occur on Saturdays. For more info [gjoutingclub2@gmail.com](mailto:gjoutingclub2@gmail.com)

# Yard Care Tips for Spring

By Bob Mohler

## Vegetable Gardens:

Spring is the time for soil preparation such as adding amendments (e.g., mushroom compost) and the early planting of items such as spring peas, onions, beets, carrots, lettuce and other cool-season crops. For items such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, beans, squash and herbs,

Mother's Day is more the standard planting date. Note: garlic is planted in the fall.



Those planting squash in the past have been visited by squash bugs and also, some stink bugs; one of the best controls is going out early in the morning prior to them being active and picking and squashing or placing in a jar and drowning. The eggs will be on the underside of the leaves, look somewhat coppery and can be scraped off or cut out. Often it is not possible to get all of them. Some other deterrents to these bugs are planting of mint (use pots only as mint is invasive) nasturtiums, or marigolds between the hills (radish seeds within the hills), use of either Neem Oil, Sevin or pyrethrins as sprays per product

directions (note: not pyrethrins mixed with sulfur as sulfur can damage cucurbits/squash and cucumbers), or diatomaceous earth around the plants. Also, do not use mulch around the squash hills as this provides a nice hiding place for the bugs. The listed sprays may also be suitable for other plants and pests as well, such as tomato horned worm.



## Lawns:

Most of the lots in the subdivision with lawns have utilized Kentucky blue grass blends as the turfgrass. Kentucky blue grass does require more water than other choices though, such as fescue mixes as well as more fertilizer and overall maintenance. If your turf has not been installed as yet, you may wish to consider

asking your landscaper about fescues as these grasses do not require as much water and little fertilizer and their roots penetrate deeper into the soil. Several nursery sources recommend four fertilizing cycles for lawns such as blue grass (March-April, May-June, late August and October to early November). Others recommend three: Spring, Summer and Fall. Of these, the most important is the August cycle as lawns such as Kentucky bluegrass often go semi-dormant during the summer. Remember to follow the instructions on the bag and utilize a slow-release fertilizer. Also, those with established lawns may wish to consider getting the lawn aerated in the spring prior to fertilizing.

### **Ornamental Trees and Shrubs:**

Young trees and shrubs would benefit from a liquid fertilizer periodically if these are on a drip system (or granules if watered in); if located within your yard, your lawn fertilizer should meet the tree/shrub needs, just do not use a weed & feed as these products may kill young trees/shrubs as well as pose a danger to pets.

For those who have roses, these are heavy feeders and should be fertilized every six weeks during spring and summer.

Again, follow the directions listed with the fertilizer products.



### **Fruit Trees:**

Fruit trees will benefit from spraying and fertilizing as well. We have a variety of insect pests, fungi and viruses in the area and as such, one of the better sources on when and what to use as a spray is the Colorado State University Extension Service (<https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/>, look under publications).

Note: for the Japanese beetle (Canyon View Park area) the county is applying GrubEx for lawns. Another product often used is Milky Spore, a bacterium in powdered form that specifically targets the beetle.

## HOA UPDATE Winter 2022-23

Hello from your new HOA Board of Directors. At our last meeting, we elected new officers and the results are:

- President - Brian Langfitt
- Vice President - David Lurye
- Secretary - Amy Mohler
- Treasurer - Sam Marutzky
- Assistant Treasurer - Sandy Rhoades

Thank you to all who attended, or sent in proxies for, our Annual Meeting, February 16. We had a great turnout, but not quite enough to vote on the CC&R changes. Highlights of the meeting include:

1. We elected three new and returning members to the board.
2. We held a unanimous vote to update the Bylaws to conform with State of Colorado requirements.
3. We approved the new budget for 2023.
4. We discussed the status of reducing our light pollution and potential improvements to our common areas, particularly the 7-acres on our western boundary.
5. Unfortunately we were not able to vote on updating the Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&Rs) document because we didn't have a quorum of 50% or more of the members. The Board is working on a plan to accomplish the voting through mailers. We need to amend the CC&Rs so they comply with state requirements and do not conflict with the Bylaws and Design Review Guidelines. So stay tuned.

Other items of interest:

- We received a letter of support from the Colorado National Monument Association on our efforts to reduce light pollution (see attached)
- The new 10-hp irrigation pump is installed and ready. Water will be in the canals around April 17 and we will turn on the system about a week later after the initial debris has moved out.
- Our build out is at 77 homes with 7 homes under construction, and 20 open lots.
- We awarded the 2023 Landscape Maintenance contract to PTL Landscaping.
- We'll be planning a Neighborhood Clean Up in May followed by a Neighborhood Block Party down at Sieber Canyon Court - watch your email. Come meet your new neighbors!

Other housekeeping items:

- Please keep your trash cans out of sight as per our DRGs
- RV parking is allowed behind a 6-foot fence on the garage side of your property. It must not extend beyond the back of the house. See the new DRGs for details.
- Speed limit is 20 mph and please watch out for children (and adults) playing in the streets.
- Make sure your lot number is visible. It makes it easier for First Responders to find you in case of an emergency.

Enjoy the longer and warmer days ahead!

## Open Space Update

By Rich Bradfield <[rich.bradfield@gmail.com](mailto:rich.bradfield@gmail.com)>

Thank you to all who attended the annual meeting and participated in the discussion of our Seven Acre Open Space. Following the meeting, we received a dozen comments. We are still encouraging comments for the future use of the Seven Acre Open Space.



In other Open Space news:

- We are collecting information about possible grants for deadwood and fire hazard mitigation.
- The local Audubon Society has offered to lead us on a bird watch tour sometime in May. If you are interested, send an email to [granitefallsnews@gmail.com](mailto:granitefallsnews@gmail.com).
- Deer fawning season is coming up. Many does have their babies in our open space. They need the cover of the shrubs and downed trees. **Please do not allow your dogs to run in the open space especially during May and June. Note: the Mesa County leash law requires dogs be on a ten foot or less leash.**
- The Beautification Committee will discuss our open space and other topics at the next meeting. For information about the Beautification Committee, please contact: Sandy Mosher via the HOA email.

## Light Pollution Initiative

Hello Neighbors, you've probably heard about our initiative to reduce the light pollution from our neighborhood. The **Redlands Neighborhood Plan, June 2002**, an inter-governmental agreement between Mesa County and the City of Grand Junction, set a goal to 'Enhance and maintain, to the greatest extent possible, the darkness of the night sky.' It also adopted policies to minimize the amount and intensity of street lighting and encourage homeowners to minimize outdoor lighting.

In concert with the Plan, our Design Review Guidelines stipulate that **exterior lights should be shielded to shine light up or down in the vertical plane, but not allow light to shine out in the horizontal plane.** Unfortunately, some of our homes were built with non-compliant outside lights that shine in all directions, so we are working with those homeowners to rectify this. If you are looking for outdoor lighting, most retail lighting websites have a category for dark-sky lighting.

Regarding street lighting, we have reached out to the Colorado National Monument staff for support prior to discussing options with the city of Grand Junction to eliminate or reduce our street lighting. As a result, we received a letter of support from the Colorado National Monument Association, a nonprofit partner to the Colorado National Monument. We have also been in contact with a local astronomy club and Xcel Energy. The club provides night-sky viewing opportunities and education resources. The club is also sending us a letter of support for our efforts. Our next step is to identify options with the City of Grand Junction and Mesa County as per the Redlands Neighborhood Plan.

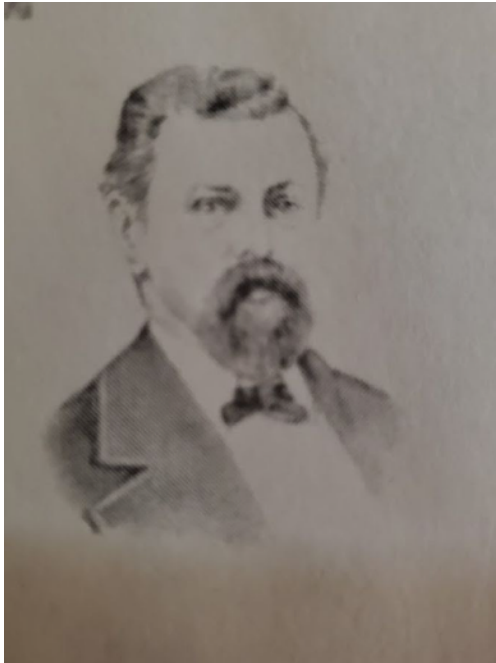
Here's a [link to the "Joint City of Grand Junction Mesa County Redlands Neighborhood Plan"](#).



## What's in a Name?

By Sam Marutzky

**Have you ever wondered where our streets got their names?** Most of our streets are named after canyons in the McInnis Canyon National Conservation Area. Those canyons get their names from famous pioneers who settled in the area.



**Charles Sieber** was born in Breslau, Germany, in 1846, the youngest of 10 children. He immigrated to the United States at the young age of 14 years. In the 1860s he came to Colorado with a German colony and settled in Wet Mountain valley, just south of Westcliffe, Colorado. In 1876 when Colorado was admitted to the Union he was chosen to represent Custer county in the first state legislature while he continued cattle and ranching operations. In 1885, four years after Grand Junction was incorporated, Charles Sieber moved to Glade Park and brought in 10,000 head of cattle. He started a retail meat market business in Grand Junction. In 1897, he organized the Sieber Cattle Company which at one time had 30,000 head of cattle. It

became the S-Cross ranch after Sieber was shot by Joe Harris, a former employee, over a branding dispute. Sieber Canyon in the southern portion of the McInnis Canyon National Conservation Area flows into the Little Dolores River which flows into the Colorado River near Westwater in Utah.

**Knowles Canyon** is also in the McInnis Canyon National Conservation Area. There were two noted 'Knowles' in the area. Henry Knowles was a well known cowboy in the 1880s who worked for Charles Sieber. He was born in Custer county and likely moved to Mesa county with Sieber. His obituary, published in the Daily Sentinel on July 7, 1904 read 'Every cow punch and every cattleman who ever bestrode a horse in western Colorado either knew Henry Knowles personally or knew of him.' He died in California of heart trouble.

The other notable 'Knowles' was Frank F. Knowles. He was born in Maine in 1856 and moved to the Grand Valley in 1882. He built the first house in Fruita in 1883 and the Loma school house in 1901. In 1896, he bought a 144 acre ranch south of Fruita along what was then known as the Grand River. He built a 32-ft

water wheel to provide irrigation for his farm and ranch. He built a 2-story stone house, heated with hot water, considered the finest ranch house in the county. A coal mine on the property served as fuel. He had 2000 acres near his ranch 'fenced by a natural wall of rocks and cliffs' for his ranching business, now part of the McInnis Canyon National Conservation Area. He died sometime after 1913. Stay tuned for more interesting history of our area.

#### References:

'A Valley So Grand...' by Robert W. McLeod  
Colorado Historical Newspaper Collection

## HOA Basics

For more info and earlier e-newsletters go to : [www.granitefallshoa.com](http://www.granitefallshoa.com)

To contact the Board of Directors: [granitefallshoa8@gmail.com](mailto:granitefallshoa8@gmail.com)

For Design Review Committee: [drcgranitefalls@gmail.com](mailto:drcgranitefalls@gmail.com)

Enewsletter - articles, suggestions, corrections, updates:  
[granitefallsenews@gmail.com](mailto:granitefallsenews@gmail.com)

### Current Board of Directors

- President - Brian Langfitt
- Vice President - David Lurye
- Secretary - Amy Mohler
- Treasurer - Sam Marutzky
- Assistant Treasurer - Sandy Rhoades